

the survey. A letter of endorsement of the project signed by the heads of eight higher education associations was also enclosed. After the 2-week deadline for returning the coordinator identification card, telephone followup was conducted with all sampled institutions that had not yet identified a survey coordinator. Survey materials were mailed to the coordinators in mid-October by certified mail, and the return receipt cards served as a control log. For cards that were not returned, receipt of the survey materials was confirmed by telephone in November. The questionnaire and cover letter requested return of the completed survey by December 1, 1993. Nonresponse followup began in mid-December and continued through March 1994.

After the questionnaires were edited, a series of logic and arithmetic checks was run and additional follow-up was conducted to resolve data inconsistencies within the questionnaire or disparities between the 1992 and 1994 survey responses.

After data collection, site visits were conducted, during which NSF and project staff members met with survey respondents to discuss the questionnaire, interpretation and reliability of the data provided, and the survey procedures. The purposes of these visits were to (1) obtain information about the data provided to assist in the analysis of the findings and (2) obtain information that could be used in planning for the 1996 survey.

The overall response rate for the survey was 93 percent. As Table A-3 indicates, response rates were high for all institution categories.

Table A-3. Academic institution response rates, by category of institution: 1994

Institution category	Number of institutions		Response rate
	Sample	Respondents	
Total	309	287	93%
Non-HBCUs ¹ :			
Doctorate-granting	177	166	94
Top 100 in research expenditures	100	97	97
Other	77	69	90
Nondoctorate-granting	88	74	84
Public	161	149	93
Private	104	91	88
HBCUs ¹	44	41	93

¹ HBCU refers to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation/SRS, 1994 Survey of Scientific and Engineering Research Facilities at Universities and Colleges.